VZCZCXRO1190 PP RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHSR DE RUEHROV #0083/01 1431153 DE RUERROV #U003/01 1431133 ZNY CCCCC ZZH P 231153Z MAY 06 ZDK FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN TO RUERC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0331 INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE RUEHROV/AMEMBASSY VATICAN 0359 Tuesday, 23 May 2006, 11:53 C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 VATICAN 000083

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DEPT FOR EUR/WE LARREA, EUR/NCE
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TAGS PL, SOCI, PREL, VT
SUBJECT: POPE TRAVELS TO POLAND: PART ONE
REF: A) 05 VATICAN 475 ET AL.; WARSAW 799 ET AL.; MARTIN - CURTIN, VAN CLEVE TELCONS
VATICAN 00000083 001.4 OF 004 CLASSIFIED BY: Peter Martin, Pol/Econ Chief, Vatican, State. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d) 1. (U) This cable is the first of two messages previewing Por

Summary

12. (C) Even without Pope John Paul II at the helm of the Catholic Church, the Holy See's attention to Poland and the influence of Poles here r Poland: Still a Presence

13. (C) The papacy of John Paul II is slowly fading into history, but Poland remains an important part of the conversation at the Vatican. Rece 14. (C) In the aftermath of the death of the Polish pope, Pole-weary Italian journalists heralded the impending exodus of Poles from Rome and t

Polish Personnel, Influence Remain

- 15. (C) Benedict moved his own German secretary, Monsignor Georg Ganswein, into the Apostolic Palace, but he kept on Pope John Paul's Polish ai 16. (C) Benedict also named London-born Polish priest Wojciech Giertych as theologian of the Papal Household, another prestigious position. Gie VATICAN 00000083 002.2 OF 004
- nationalist Jedrzej Giertych (1903-92), and brother of Maciej Giertych of the League of Polish Families party in Poland. Maciej's son, Roman, i 17. (C) "Even after the death of the Holy Father, we have a strong presence here," Grzegorz Kaszak, rector of the Polish College (residential s

Vatican Publicizes Stats on Polish Church

18. (C) The statistics bear Kaszak out. We defer to Embassy Warsaw on the strength of the Polish Catholic Church domestically, but the Vatican Ubiquitous Presence

19. (C) As if to emphasize the ubiquitous presence of Poles in and around the Vatican, Kaszak exchanged several greetings in Polish with passir Pope Reaches Out to Poles

110. (C) The Holy See clearly recognizes who its audience is. At his weekly public gathering (a mixture of prayer and pep rally), Pope Benedict VATICAN 00000083 003.6 OF 004 in addition to Italian, French, English, Spanish, and German. Polish is typically one of the languages used for prayers at Vatican masses. The

A Counter-Weight to Secular Europe?

111. (C) The Holy See's attention to Poland is not simply customer service or "taking care of the troops". As was clear under Pope John Paul II

112. (C) Looking at Poland's position in Europe and the EU, several Polish interlocutors told us that Western European suspicion of Poland as &

Radio Maryja

113. (C) Although the Vatican is on guard against encroaching secularism, it shares with many Polish bishops a wariness of Radio Maryja, the Ca 14. (C) When Papal Nuncio Jozef Kowalczyk made an April statement chastising Radio Maryja, many assumed that the Vatican had finally decided t VATICAN 00000083 004.4 OF 004

any case, as Banach told us, things seem to be improving, as the proposed programming board set up to monitor the content of the station's broa

Other Influences

115. (C) As the Holy See examines the many aspects of its relationship with Poland, it seeks to maintain its focus on the pastoral rather than Comment

116. (C) It is only a little more than a year after the death of Pope John Paul II, and it is inevitable that with the passage of time Poland w